



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

## Biden signs burst of virus orders, requires masks for travel

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — With a burst of executive orders, President Joe Biden served notice Thursday that the nation's COVID-19 response is under new management and he's demanding progress to reduce infections and lift the siege Americans have endured for nearly a year. The 10 orders signed by Biden are aimed at jump starting his national COVID-19 strategy to increase vaccinations and testing, lay the groundwork for reopening schools and businesses, and immediately increase the use of masks — including a requirement that Americans mask up for travel. One directive calls for addressing health care inequities in minority communities hard hit by the virus.

"We didn't get into this mess overnight, and it will take months to turn this around," Biden said. "Despite the best intentions we're going to face setbacks." But he declared: "To a nation waiting for action, let me be clear on this point: Help is on the way." The new president has vowed to take far more aggressive measures to contain the virus than his predecessor, starting with stringent adherence to public health guidance. He faces steep obstacles, with the virus actively spreading in most states, slow progress on the vaccine rollout and political uncertainty over whether congressional Republicans will help him pass a \$1.9 trillion economic relief and COVID response package.

Continued on next page



President Joe Biden speaks about the coronavirus in the State Dining Room of the White House, Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press



Authentic Peruvian Food & More

Sharing Menu \$50 per couple

  
2 appetizers

  
1 Main dish

  
1 Dessert



J.E. Irausquin Blvd 64 - Eagle Beach, Aruba - www.asiesmiperuenaruba.com - Closed Mon  
Info: + 297 525 4000 (Ext 172) / 588 3958 - reservations@asiesmiperuenaruba.com

Aruba  
**WALK-IN CLINIC**  
L.G. Beke-Martinez M.D. | Family Physician



Experienced doctor ✓  
No appointment necessary ✓  
Urgent and non-urgent medical care ✓

Tel. +297 588 0539 or +297 594 0539  
lgbeke.md@gmail.com | Unit 9 at "The Cove"



Craving  
a **Good**  
Steak?



**El Gaucho**  
ARGENTINE GRILL

One pound of Natural grass-Fed Beef from the Argentinean Pampas, Grilled to perfection by our Master Chefs over a real Charcoal Fire... Juicy, Lean and full of Flavor.

*IT's Time for an extraordinary steak!*

**Closed on Sundays**  
Open Monday through Saturday from 11:30am till 11pm. For reservations call 582-3677  
Lunch and Early Bird specials available till 5pm. Happy Hour from 5-7pm





**Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, arrives for an event with President Joe Biden on the coronavirus in the State Dining Room of the White House, Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021, in Washington.**

**Associated Press**

**Continued from front**

"We need to ask average Americans to do their part," said Jeff Zients, the White House official directing the national response. "Defeating the virus requires a coordinated nationwide effort."

Biden officials say they're hampered by lack of cooperation from the Trump administration during the transition. They say they don't have a complete understanding of their prede-

cessors' actions on vaccine distribution. And they face a litany of complaints from states that say they are not getting enough vaccine even as they are being asked to vaccinate more categories of people.

Biden acknowledged the urgency of the mission in his inaugural address. "We are entering what may well be the toughest and deadliest period of the virus," he said before asking Americans to join him in a moment of silence in memory of the more than 400,000 people in the U.S. who have died from COVID-19.

Biden's top medical adviser on COVID-19, Dr. Anthony Fauci, also announced renewed U.S. support for the World Health Organization after the Trump administration had pulled out of the global body. Fauci said early Thursday that the U.S. will join the U.N. health agency's efforts to bring vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics to people in need, whether in rich or poor countries and will resume full funding and staffing support for WHO.

The U.S. mask order for travel being implemented by Biden will apply to airports and planes, ships, intercity buses, trains and public transportation. Travelers from abroad must furnish a negative COVID-19 test before departing for the U.S. and quarantine upon arrival. Biden has already mandated masks on federal property.

Although airlines, Amtrak and other transport providers now require masks, Biden's order makes it a federal mandate, leaving little wiggle room for passengers tempted to argue about their rights. It marks a sharp break with the culture of President Donald Trump's administration, under which masks were optional, and Trump made a point of going maskless and hosting big gatherings of like-minded supporters. Science has shown that masks, properly worn, cut down on coronavirus transmission.

Biden also is seeking to expand testing and vaccine availability, with the goal of 100 million shots in his first 100 days in office. Zients

called Biden's goal "ambitious and achievable."

The Democratic president has directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency to begin setting up vaccination centers, aiming to have 100 up and running in a month. He's ordering the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to begin a program to make vaccines available through local pharmacies starting next month. And he's mobilizing the Public Health Service to deploy to assist localities in vaccinations. There's also support for states. Biden is ordering FEMA to reimburse states for the full cost of using their National Guards to set up vaccination centers. That includes the use of supplies and protective gear as well as personnel.

But some independent experts say the administration should be setting a higher bar for itself than 100 million shots. During flu season, the U.S. is able to vaccinate about 3 million people a day, said Dr. Christopher Murray of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation in Seattle. "Given the number of people dying from COVID, we could and should do more — like what we're able to do on seasonal flu," he said.

Zients said Biden will not follow through on a Trump administration plan to penalize states lagging in vaccination by shifting some of their allocation to more efficient states. "We are not looking to pit one state against another," he said. Biden has set a goal of having most K-8 schools reopen in his first 100 days, and he's ordering the departments of Education and Health and Human Services to provide clear guidance for reopening schools safely. States would also be able to tap FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund to help them get schools back open.

Getting schools and child care going will help to ease the drag on the U.S. economy, making it easier for parents to return to their jobs and restaurants to find lunch-time customers.

But administration officials stressed that reopening schools safely depends on increased testing.

To ramp up supplies, Biden is giving government agencies a green light to use a Cold War-era law called the Defense Production Act to direct manufacturing.

"We do not have nearly enough testing capacity in this country," Zients said. "We need the money in order to really ramp up testing, which is so important to reopen schools and businesses."

This means that efforts to reopen the economy will hinge on how quickly lawmakers act on the \$1.9 trillion package proposed by Biden, which includes separate planks such as \$1,400 in direct payments to people, a \$15 minimum wage and aid to state and local governments that some Republican lawmakers see as unnecessary for addressing the medical emergency. The Biden plan estimates that a national vaccination strategy with expanded testing requires \$160 billion, and he wants another \$170 billion to aid the reopening of schools and universities. The proposal also calls for major investment in scientific research to track new strains of the virus, amid concern that some mutations may spread more easily and also prove harder to treat.

As part of his COVID-19 strategy, Biden will order the establishment of a COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force to ensure that minority and underserved communities are not left out of the government's response. Blacks, Latinos and Native Americans have borne a heavy burden of death and disease from the virus. Surveys have shown vaccine hesitancy is high among African Americans, a problem the administration plans to address through an education campaign.

But Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, the top White House health adviser on minority communities, said she's not convinced that race should be a factor in vaccination. Disparities seem to have more to do with risky jobs and other life circumstances.

"It's not inherent to race," she said. "It's from the exposures."q



**Gilberto Francois (Betico) Croes**  
January 25th, 1938 – November 26th, 1986

**To our reader and clients;**

To our reader and clients; In connection with the holiday, Betico Croes Day, Aruba Today will not be published on Monday, January 25th, 2021. We will resume our publication on Tuesday, January 26th, 2021.



# Appeals court revisits Texas ban on abortion procedure

By KEVIN MCGILL

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — Texas should be allowed to halt a common second-trimester abortion procedure, the state's lawyers told a federal appeals court Thursday in a hearing punctuated by debates over fetal pain and the rights of women to medically safe abortion.

A 2017 Texas law, which has never been enforced, prohibits the use of forceps to remove a fetus from the womb — what supporters of the law call a "dismemberment abortion" — without first using an injected drug or a suction procedure to ensure the fetus is dead.

The state has long argued that it has a legal interest in barring what it calls a "brutal" procedure. Abortion rights advocates argue that the law effectively outlaws what is often the safest method of abortion for women in the second trimester of pregnancy — a procedure medically known as dilation and evacuation. They also argue that fetuses cannot feel pain during the gestation period affected by the law, and that one alternative outlined by the



In this Jan. 7, 2015, file photo, a man walks in front of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

state, the use of suction to remove a fetus, also results in dismemberment.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans blocked enforcement of the law last year, and other federal courts have blocked similar laws. But opponents of legal abortion hope the Supreme Court, now with three appointees of former President Donald

Trump, will take a new look at the issue.

Against that backdrop, a majority of the full 17-member 5th Circuit agreed to Thursday's full-court rehearing, which featured sometimes sharp discussions on whether a fetus can feel pain.

Kyle Hawkins of the Texas Attorney General's Office argued that fetuses in the second trimester are "pain

capable." He said the law does not pose an unconstitutional burden on a woman seeking an abortion and that the state has a legitimate interest in requiring a "more humane" abortion method.

"Even in high school, if you're going to dissect a frog, you kill him before you start taking him apart," Judge Edith Jones said later as she questioned Molly

Duane, attorney for the Center for Reproductive rights.

"First of all," Duane responded, "the record clearly shows that fetal pain is not possible at the gestational ages —"

"Well, we don't know about frog pain, do we?" Jones interrupted. "It's a matter of taking creatures and not tearing them apart limb by limb."

In briefs, the center cites findings by the American Medical Association, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and other medical organizations that pain cannot be felt before 24 weeks of gestation.

The Texas law can cause needless delay for a woman seeking abortion and the requirements are medically unnecessary, Duane argued. Also, Duane argued, a physician cannot be certain of fetal death in many cases until a procedure has begun, raising questions among 5th Circuit judges Thursday of whether the physician performing the abortion with forceps becomes liable for prosecution if the drug has not worked. □

Associated Press

# Bernie Sanders spawns splash of memes with inaugural attire

**MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)** — Wearing mittens made out of recycled materials and a warm winter jacket, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders pulled off a casual inauguration outfit — and vibe — that only he could.

Many people quickly highlighted the 79-year-old independent Vermont senator's look, and created endless memes, from Wednesday's inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, which he said was more about keeping warm than fashion.

"You know in Vermont, we dress warm, we know something about the cold, and we're not so concerned about good fashion, we want to keep warm. And that's what I did today," Sanders told CBS on Wednesday.

People were particularly

enthralled with Sanders' mittens, which were made by a Vermont elementary school teacher who has a side business making mittens out of recycled wool.

"I love it that he loves them, and that he wears them," Jen Ellis, an elementary school teacher, told NECN-TV. "And I'm totally honored that he wore them today." Ellis has never met Sanders. But when her daughter went to a child care center owned by one of his relatives, she was able to slip a pair into Sanders' hands.

"I think people like a heartwarming story — especially now," she said when asked about the all the attention the mittens were getting on social media.

The widespread interest in the mittens prompted Ellis to tweet Wednesday that there were "no more" of the

coveted hand warmers.

Sanders has donned the mittens before while running for president in 2020 and in interviews with Vermont journalists, the station reported.

Sanders' inauguration look, including a brown winter jacket made by Burton snowboards, has spawned countless memes since Wednesday including the former presidential candidate on the subway, on the moon, sitting on the couch with the cast of "Friends".

In memes spreading across Indian Country, Sanders is draped with a Pendleton blanket sitting alongside the parade route during a tribal fair, next to the fire during a ceremony and riding in the back of a pickup truck across remote land. Even before inauguration day, he was dubbed



Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders arrives for the 59th Presidential Inauguration at the U.S. Capitol for President-elect Joe Biden in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021.

Associated Press

"cheii," the Navajo word for "grandfather."

Ryan Leclerc, a hard goods buyer for Onion River Sports in Montpelier, Vermont, said Sanders is more about substance than style. Leclerc noted the senator's inaugu-

ration attire emulated what is "great" about the him.

"Those are the mittens you might see when you're sipping cider around a fire. Sanders doesn't care and it's not important to him," Leclerc said. □



# Judge gives preliminary OK to \$641M Flint water deal

By ED WHITE

Associated Press

**DETROIT (AP)** — A judge granted preliminary approval Thursday to a \$641 million deal that would benefit thousands of Flint residents who were harmed by lead-contaminated water. The settlement includes \$600 million from the state of Michigan, although Flint, an area hospital and an engineering firm are also part of the agreement. U.S. District Judge Judith Levy signed off in a 72-page opinion.

"There may be no amount of money that would fully recognize the harm the residents of Flint have experienced, including their anxiety, fear, distrust and anger over the events of the last seven years," Levy said. "Litigation has its benefits but also its limitations, and the preliminary approval of this settlement does not affect or preclude other avenues of redress."

Preliminary approval triggers a monthslong process during which Flint residents can object and pursue their own claims, Levy said.



In this Jan. 13, 2021 file photo, vehicles drive through downtown Flint, Mich.

They will have until March 29 to register to participate. Flint managers appointed by then-Gov. Rick Snyder and regulators in his administration allowed the city to use the Flint River in 2014-15 without treating the water to reduce corrosion. As a result, lead in old pipes broke off and flowed

through taps. Separately, experts have blamed the river water for an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease, which led to at least 12 deaths in the Flint area. They believe there wasn't enough chlorine in the water to fight off bacteria.

Snyder, a Republican, was

charged last week with two misdemeanor counts of willful neglect of duty in Flint. Eight other people were also charged, including two health department officials who are blamed for the deaths of nine people with Legionnaires'.

The settlement was announced in August by At-

torney General Dana Nessel and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, both Democrats, who were elected in 2018 while the litigation was pending.

The agreement makes money available to every Flint child who was exposed to the water, every adult who can show an injury, certain business owners and anyone who paid water bills, Levy said. Flint switched back to a Detroit regional water agency in fall 2015, when Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha publicly reported elevated lead levels in children.

Attorneys representing Flint residents have said 80% of payments will go to people who were under 18 when the river water was used. The estates of people who died from Legionnaires' would qualify for \$300,000 to \$1.5 million.

The judge has not yet determined legal fees.

"At last, the victims of the Flint water crisis no longer have to hope for a day of reckoning," said attorney Corey Stern, who represents 4,000 people. □

Associated Press

# Judge: NY lawsuit seeking NRA's dissolution can go forward



In this Jan. 18, 2019, file photo, an attendee at a gun-rights rally wears a hat supporting the National Rifle Association, at the Capitol in Olympia, Wash.

Associated Press

By MICHAEL R. SISA

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A New York judge on Thursday denied the National Rifle Association's bid to throw out a state lawsuit that seeks to put the powerful gun advocacy group out of business. Judge Joel Cohen's ruling will allow New York Attorney General Letitia James'

lawsuit to move ahead in state court in Manhattan, rather than dismissing it on technical grounds or moving it to federal court, as the NRA's lawyers desired. James' lawsuit, filed last August, seeks the NRA's dissolution under state nonprofit law over claims that top executives illegally divert-

ed tens of millions of dollars for trips, no-show contracts and other expenditures.

James is the state's chief law enforcement officer and has regulatory power over nonprofit organizations incorporated in the state, such as the NRA, Cohen said.

"It would be inappropriate to find that the attorney couldn't pursue her claims in state court just because one of the defendants wants to proceed in federal court," Cohen said at a hearing held by video because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Cohen also rejected the NRA's arguments that James' lawsuit was improperly filed in Manhattan and should've been filed in Albany, where the NRA's incorporation paperwork lists an address. The NRA's arguments for dismissing the case did not involve the merits of the case.

The NRA has been incorporated in New York since 1871, though it is headquartered in Virginia and last week filed for bankruptcy protection in Texas in a bid to reincorporate in that state.

The NRA, in announcing its bankruptcy filing last Friday, said it wanted to break free of a "corrupt political and regulatory environment in New York" and that it saw Texas as friendlier to its interests.

The NRA's lawyers said at a bankruptcy court hearing on Wednesday in Dallas that they wouldn't use the Chapter 11 proceedings to halt the lawsuit.

After Thursday's ruling, they said they were ready to go ahead with the case, including a meeting with lawyers from James' office on Friday and another hearing in March.

In a letter to Cohen in advance of Thursday's head-

ing, NRA lawyer Sarah Rogers said the organization had no position on seeking to stay the case through bankruptcy, but that it reserved right to seek such orders from bankruptcy court in the future.

Normally, a bankruptcy filing would halt all pending litigation. James' office contends that its lawsuit is covered by an exemption involving a state's regulatory powers and cannot be stopped by bankruptcy.

Assistant New York Attorney General James Sheehan said he hoped to bring the case to trial by early 2022.

In seeking to dismiss or move the state's lawsuit to federal court, Rogers argued that many of its mispending and self-dealing allegations were also contained in pending lawsuits in federal court — a slate of cases she described as a "tangled nest of litigation." □



# French victims of child abuse speak out in new #MeToo wave

**PARIS (AP)** — "I was 9. ... It was my father. He raped me until I was 17."

The French government pledged on Thursday to toughen laws on the rape of children after a massive online movement saw hundreds of victims share accounts about sexual abuse within their families.

The move comes in the wake of child abuse accusations involving a prominent French political expert.

France's justice minister said Thursday the government will soon present new legal measures to better protect children, while a draft bill has started being debated at parliament to toughen laws on the rape of minors under 13.

The social media campaign was launched Saturday by activists of the French feminist group #NousToutes in reference to the #MeToo movement that sparked a global debate about sexual harassment and assault. The #MeTooInceste hashtag overwhelmed French social media in just a few days. In French, the word "inceste" is widely used to refer to any sexual act between members of the same family, including abuse of children, stepchild-



Signs on the wall reads "Duhamel, and the others, you will never be in peace" referring to prominent French political expert, Olivier Duhamel, in Paris, Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021.

Associated Press

dren or younger siblings. Hundreds of people shared appalling accounts about how they were sexually abused when they were children:

"I was between 11 and 14. It was my brother. I'm now 57 and still a victim of that past."

"I was 8. Abused by my grandfather."

"Just one amid so many others. I was 6-7-8 year-old, I don't remember."

Tens of thousands of people responded by sharing

and commenting under the same hashtag.

Laurent Boyet, 49, was among those who tweeted. A police officer and head of the association Les Papillons ("Butterflies") fighting against child abuse, he published a book in 2017 to tell his story. He said he was raped by his brother, who was 10 years older than him, when he was between 6 and 9.

"I really hope society is going to have the courage to face the problem," he

told The Associated Press. "We need to stop looking away."

When he spoke to his mother, over 30 years after the abuse started, Boyet said she answered: "I believe you because I had doubts about it."

"All the signals I had sent her, she got them but did nothing," he recalled.

"In 2021 we cannot keep quiet anymore, we need to take action," he added.

Boyet's association started in September placing mail-

boxes in schools to allow children to express their distress through letters. Boyet said some of the written notes have led to legal action, including for alleged sexual abuse.

The feminist activist behind the #MeTooInceste campaign, Madeline Da Silva, said "we are convinced that children actually speak out and what's a very big problem is that no one is hearing them."

Even if children don't say the words, they still show signs that they are suffering "and no one is trained to understand them," she regretted.

That's why, Da Silva said, the movement is not only about improving the laws but above all about introducing immediate, child-centered public policies.

"Today we know that when you're training social workers, teachers about prevention of violence, things are changing: you're saving lives," she said.

Her #NousToutes group launched a petition urging the government to require systematic training of all people working with children, including teachers, social workers and officials of sports and cultural associations. □

# French doctor who made Down discovery closer to sainthood

By NICOLE WINFIELD  
Associated Press

**ROME (AP)** — The French doctor who discovered the genetic basis of Down syndrome but spent his career advocating against abortion as a result of prenatal diagnosis has taken his first major step to possible sainthood.

Pope Francis on Thursday approved the "heroic virtues" of Dr. Jerome Lejeune, who lived from 1926-1994 and was particularly esteemed by St. John Paul II for his anti-abortion stance. The papal recognition of Lejeune's virtues means that he is considered "venerable" by the Catholic Church. The Vatican must now confirm a miracle attributed to his intercession for him to be beatified, and

a second one for him to be declared a saint.

According to his official biography, Lejeune in 1958 discovered the existence of an extra chromosome on the 21st pair during a study of the chromosomes of a child. It was the first time scientists had found a link between an intellectual disability and a chromosomal anomaly; the condition is now known as trisomy 21.

"Although the results of his research should have helped medicine to advance toward a cure, they are often used to identify children carrying these diseases as early as possible, usually with the aim of terminating pregnancy," the Jerome Lejeune Foundation wrote in its biography.

"As soon as the pro-abortion laws were drafted in western countries, Lejeune began advocating for the protection of the unborn with Down syndrome: he gave hundreds of conferences and interviews across the globe in defense of life," the group said.

John Paul in 1974 made Lejeune a member of the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences think tank and later named him the first chairman of the Pontifical Academy for Life, the Holy See's main bioethics advisory commission.

John Paul visited Lejeune's grave during the Paris World Youth Day in 1997.

Though John Paul made the church's firm opposition to abortion a hallmark of his quarter-century papacy,



In this Aug. 22, 1997 file photo, Pope John Paul II meditates by the grave of his former friend geneticist Jerome Lejeune, during a private visit to the Chalo-Saint-Mars cemetery near Paris.

Associated Press

Francis too has strongly denounced what he calls today's "throwaway culture" that considers the weak,

disabled or sick disposable. He has likened abortion to hiring a "hit man" to take care of a problem. □



# Twin suicide bombings rock central Baghdad, at least 32 dead

**BAGHDAD (AP)** — Twin suicide bombings ripped through a busy market in the Iraqi capital on Thursday, killing at least 32 people and wounding dozens, officials said in what was the first massive bombing in years, harkening back to darker days of rampant militant attacks.

The rare suicide bombing hit the Bab al-Sharqi commercial area in central Baghdad amid heightened political tensions over planned early elections and a severe economic crisis. Blood was splattered on the pavement of the busy market amid piles of clothes and shoes as survivors took stock of the disarray in the aftermath.

By sundown, crowds reappeared at the site of the deadly attack, carrying the coffins of the deceased in a show of defiance. Many questioned the timing of the attack, which occurred a day after President Joe Biden was sworn into office. The U.S.-led coalition recently ceased combat activities and is gradually drawing down its troop presence in Iraq, sparking



People and security forces gather at the site of a deadly bomb attack in a market selling used clothes, Iraq, Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021.

Associated Press

fears of an IS resurgence. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but Iraqi military officials said it was the work of the Islamic State group. Iraq's health minister Hassan Mohammed al-Tamimi

said at least 32 people were killed and 110 were wounded in the attack. He said some of the wounded were in serious condition. Iraq's military previously put the number of dead at 28. The Health Minis-

try announced that all of its hospitals in the capital were mobilized to treat the wounded. Maj. Gen. Tahsin al-Khafaji, spokesman for the Joint Operations Command, which includes an array of Iraqi forces, said

the first suicide bomber cried out loudly that he was ill in the middle of the bustling market, prompting a crowd to gather around him — and that's when he detonated his explosive belt. The second detonated his belt shortly after, he said. "This is a terrorist act perpetrated by a sleeper cell of the Islamic State," al-Khafaji said. He said IS "wanted to prove its existence" after suffering many blows in military operations to root out the militants.

At the Vatican, Pope Francis denounced the attack in Baghdad as a "senseless act of brutality" and urged Iraqis to keep working to replace violence with fraternity and peace. The telegram of condolences sent to the Iraqi president was particularly heartfelt, given Francis is due to visit Iraq in early March to try to encourage the country's Christian communities that have been devastated by IS persecution. Thursday's twin suicide bombings marked the first in three years to target Baghdad's bustling commercial district. □

# Dutch lawmakers back coronavirus curfew despite criticism



In this Tuesday Dec. 15, 2020, file photo, A skull is glued onto a traffic light on the near-empty Dam Square with the Royal Palace, seen center rear, in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Associated Press

By **MIKE CORDER**

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — A majority of Dutch lawmakers backed the government's planned curfew Thursday, despite fierce criticism from some opposition legislators.

The four parties that make up the ruling coalition and several opposition parties backed a curfew from 9

p.m. to 4:30 a.m. — shifting the start a half hour later than originally planned. The measure likely will come into force Saturday. The government on Thursday also announced an extension of financial support measures to business, pumping an extra 7.6 billion euros (\$9.2 billion) into efforts to prop up ailing

businesses and protect jobs amid the crippling economic downturn caused by the pandemic and lockdown.

Prime Minister Mark Rutte said a curfew is needed to rein in the spread of COVID-19, but some opposition lawmakers angrily denounced it as an excessive restriction of liberties.

Rutte said that medical experts have warned the government that the threat of more contagious variants "is so serious that you have to impose this terrible measure of a curfew in addition to the existing lockdown measures."

Geert Wilders, leader of the largest opposition party, called the proposed curfew "a sign of utter impotence and panic" from the government.

"We are being imprisoned at home on the orders of Mark Rutte. If you leave home without his permis-

sion, you get a fine. We are losing our freedom en masse and that is no fun. Believe me, I know what I'm talking about," said Wilders who has for years lived under round-the-clock security because of death threats prompted by his strident anti-Islam policies.

The lengthy parliamentary debate underscored growing frustration at months of restrictions intended to tackle the pandemic, which has killed more than 13,000 people in the Netherlands.

With the government in caretaker mode since resigning Friday, it needs approval from lawmakers to impose the curfew. After hours of debate in parliament, it remained unclear if a majority would support the measure. Rutte's coalition quit over a scandal involving thousands of parents wrongly being labeled fraudsters by the country's

tax office.

Tunahan Kuzu, of the Think party, warned that Rutte's proposal would turn the Netherlands into a "police state," while other lawmakers urged the government to better enforce existing lockdown measures such as the call for people to work from home.

The Netherlands joins other European Union countries that have told people to stay home after dark, including Belgium, France, Italy, Greece and parts of Germany.

The Netherlands has been in a tough lockdown since Dec. 15. Numbers of infections and hospital admissions have been declining in recent weeks, but health authorities are concerned that the more infectious mutation of the coronavirus first detected in Britain will make up the majority of Dutch cases by mid-February. □



# Report: Witness implicates Mexico's army in abduction of 43

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — New testimony by a cooperating witness directly implicates Mexico's army in the disappearance of 43 college students in a 2014 incident that continues to haunt the country, according to a newspaper report Wednesday.

The newspaper Reforma said the witness, presumably a gang member identified only as "Juan," alleges soldiers held and interrogated some of the students before turning them over to a drug gang.

The students' bodies were then either burned at a local crematorium or dissolved in acid or caustic solutions and dumped down drains, the witness said. Still other bodies were purportedly hacked up and scattered near the city of Taxco.

The revelation could further embarrass the army, which has recently been hit by allegations that a former defense secretary was in the pay of a drug gang. It could also imply that most of the students' remains may never be found.



In this Oct. 22, 2014 file photo, people protest the disappearance of 43 students in Mexico City. Associated Press

The Interior Department confirmed that the testimony was part of the case file and said it would file charges against whoever leaked it. The department did not comment on the accuracy of the newspaper's version of the testimony.

But a person familiar with the case said the testimony was new, from early 2020,

and was part of the case file.

The witness said that an army captain, who is now facing organized crime charges in the case, held some of the students at a local army base and interrogated them, before turning them over to the Guerreros Unidos drug gang.

Police held another group,

and gang members captured still others. In all, the witness said as many as 70 to 80 people were held, turned over to the gang and killed, because the Guerreros Unidos gang believed that criminals from a rival group were among them. The accusation is one of a series of conflicting testimonies that have

offered differing versions of what happened to the students from a rural teachers' college who were hijacking buses when they were rounded up by police and turned over to a drug gang. Over more than six years of investigations, Mexican authorities have found dozens of clandestine graves and 184 bodies, but none of the missing students.

According to initial investigations of the September 2014 events, police in the city of Iguala handed the students over to cartel members, who purportedly killed and burned them. However, charred bone fragments have been fully matched to only two students. The witness "Juan" purportedly told investigators that bone fragments found around a garbage dump near Iguala were planted by the drug gang to throw off investigations. Prosecutors once maintained the students had been burned in a huge pyre at the dump, a version that independent forensics experts later said was not feasible. □

# Search for oxygen tank refills routine for Peruvians

By MAURICIO MUÑOZ VILLA EL SALVADOR, Peru

**(AP)** — In the middle of what was once a sandy desert, on the outskirts of Peru's capital, a new routine has emerged for many of the residents of the densely populated city of Villa El Salvador.

With the lives of friends or relatives at stake because of the new coronavirus, people are spending their days searching for a place to buy oxygen, preferably without having to spend their life savings.

Oxygen is crucial to save the lives of those critically ill with COVID-19. And in this city of more than 508,000 people, it has become a scarce commodity just as a second wave of coronavirus infections hits the South American country.

"It's so sad to see that all people go through this," Noa Torres, 34, said Thurs-

day outside a facility that sells oxygen. "It is sad to see that not only I, all people, are waiting for oxygen for their family."

People are carrying empty oxygen tanks, bought in the black market, around town, hoping to find a place to fill them. The hunt for oxygen is in part the result of the government's lack of preparedness to handle the pandemic. Most of the hospitals in Peru do not have the equipment necessary to produce oxygen.

The desperation for oxygen has led some businesses to triple its price, forcing many to plunder their savings or sell belongings to afford it. But while some are price gauging, others are stepping in to help. In Villa El Salvador, a group of 13 friends, among them engineers, economists and lawyers, pooled their savings to recently open an oxygen

plant. At their facility, a cubic meter of oxygen sells for \$4.10, while other places charge up to \$13.69 for the same amount.

The young entrepreneurs say they are not trying to profit off of COVID-19, they just want to help the most vulnerable population in Lima. Their plant has drawn people from all corners of the city since it opened, with the lemon green tanks lined up on the sidewalk.

"Everyone has gone through the disease," Juan Carlos Urbano, 45, said referring to his family while he waited to refill a tank outside the entrepreneurs' facility. "Right now, there are four who are ill and one who is in serious condition and in need of oxygen. Most of the families I think are in this situation."

Peru has tallied more than 1 million cases and over 39,000 deaths of COVID-19,



A man waits by his empty oxygen tank in a line of other customers outside a shop that refills them in the Villa El Salvador shantytown of Lima, Peru, Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Associated Press

according to data from Johns Hopkins University. Developing nations often lack the reliable supply of medical oxygen found in wealthy Europe and North America, where it is delivered in liquid form by tanker truck and piped directly to the beds of coronavirus

patients. But even in Los Angeles, a recent surge of coronavirus cases overwhelmed clinics and created a shortage of oxygen that led to a directive for ambulance crews to stop transporting patients they can't revive in the field. □



# LOCAL



## Urgent Care Aruba communicates: Book your remote pre-travel COVID-19 PCR Test on [www.covidaruba.com](http://www.covidaruba.com)

your Front Desk Agent to schedule the appointment in advance.

### What does the remote testing entail?

On the day of appointment, our lab personnel will come to you to conduct the Pre-travel COVID-19 PCR test. Our personnel comply with safety PPE protocols upon visit. The advantage of scheduling the appointment in advance is that the service is free. For last minute same day remote testing we charge a coverage fee of \$50.

During the holidays: Conduct the test before 9:30am for same day results.

Price for the COVID-19 PCR test is \$126 and results are sent electronically. Test results is accepted by

government entities and airlines. You can pay with cash, credit/ debit card after completing the test. It is important to mention that the Pre-Travel COVID-19 PCR Testing is not covered by the Aruba Visitor's Insurance.

We also accept walk-ins at our testing location in Noord Medical Center, Noord 63.

For more information contact us at +297 5860448, +297 5975549, or at [info@urgentcare.aw](mailto:info@urgentcare.aw). □

**NOORD — Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) offers the possibility to schedule remote Pre-travel COVID-19 PCR Testing (on location). This test is available for both locals and island visitors needing to conduct the test 72 hours prior to boarding. The website offers information and link to bookings,**

**price, results, testing location, payment methods, frequently asked questions and more.**

### How to book your remote testing appointment

It is possible to book your appointment via [www.covidaruba.com](http://www.covidaruba.com) or you can request assistance from

## Can I have a .... Please?



**ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change?? How about a different breakfast from what you are used to at your hotel. Hop in your car, drive around and anywhere around the island you will come across a local snack shop.**

Here you will find all types of snacks loved by the locals. Try a pastechi, a Caribbean pastry filled with cheese or meat and fried up deliciously.

Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, a crusty little meat ball. A dedito is also a good option, it's a stick made out of cheese or hotdog. If you want to try something more familiar go for a homemade hamburger or a ham and cheese toast, but with a local touch.

All these snacks are ridiculously addictive. Freshen up with a delicious fruit shake (batido) made out of watermelon, strawberry, banana, papaya or just mix any fruit together. What makes these little snack shops more attractive is the warmth of its people and the smile you get for free. □



**The New Downtown Living  
Get your Own Ocean  
Front Condo**

**Over 70%  
Already  
Sold**

(+297) 594 6395

Weststraat 2, Oranjestad, Aruba

[sales@harbourhousearuba.com](mailto:sales@harbourhousearuba.com)

[www.harbourhousearuba.com](http://www.harbourhousearuba.com)



MONDAY MADNESS AND BINGO ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

50/30  
Friday!

We're giving away \$50 Free Slot Play to lucky slot and table game players every 30 minutes from 6pm to 9:30pm!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets, Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins  
Hungry Piranha | Aruba Aloe  
Shalom Body & Soul Spa

Coming Soon: The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood

Alhambra  
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 9am to 10pm | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Aruba in race for golden globe award

ORANJESTAD — For the first time ever the small Caribbean Island of Aruba with a population of 120,000 was able to submit with the film "Perfect Judgment" in category "International Foreign Feature Film" to compete for the Golden Globe Award! Official announcement of nominees February 3, 2021.

A film produced under dire circumstances with only

one camera, no budget, abandoned buildings as training field, denied access to buildings for filming were surpassed by the effort of a prepared group of passionate amateurs in acting and producing all a bona fide. The only professional group that was paid for was in the field of camera, score and editing. It is a story by rising star Angelo Croes that surpassed his first film "Natalia" that will keep



your attention glued to the tube for the next move until the end, about a captain, Django Maduro, a womanizer, of the local police elite squad whose brother and wife were killed and appointed with their only child that wants to take justice in his own hands and falls into international plethora underground situations with an intrigue end.

Original titled, "Huicio Perfecto" 117 min in Papiamentu with English subtitles, was launched with sold out box offices locally, March 5, 2020 then the global lockdown hit.

Featuring: Alvin Molina, Alejandro Dirksen, Abigail Sanchez, Manuel da Silva, Daybelis Croes & Stephanie Croes.

About Film Screen Organization

Film Screen Aruba Organization promotes the culture of Visual Arts in Aruba. Mission and Vision is to introduce Creative Carriers besides the only Hotel Industry Locally.

Fingers crossed for the award Aruba Ariba!

Source: openPR.

Goodwill Ambassadors honored at Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple Irwin & Shirley Bloch from North Easton, Massachusetts!

These lovely people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, its safety, and the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort and staff.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □







## Meet Megan



**By Megan van Ewijk**  
**ORANJESTAD** - "I am Megan van Ewijk. 17 years ago, I was born in The Netherlands and after 12 years of living on the most beautiful island in the Caribbean, called Aruba, I will be moving back to my motherland, to make my dreams come true. My dream is to become a journalist, and to live my most wonderful life. I am going to study journalism at the Hogeschool of Utrecht, and currently taking an internship at Aruba Today.

When people hear that I get to call Aruba my home, they tell me I live in paradise. Which is absolutely true, Aruba is paradise. Long white

beaches; turquoise blue oceans and happy people drinking Aruba Ariba's under a palm tree. When I think of paradise, I do not see face masks, neither signs that are telling us to keep our distance, but it is the reality that even the one happy islanders are living in today.

The year 2020 will go down as the Covid-19 year. However, if you had asked me how I would have liked to remember 2020, it would have been slightly different. Nevertheless, It was a special year for me. It was my last year of high school, I graduated, I started working, I got to spend a lot of time with my family and I fell in love.

Last year Aruba was in a lockdown

for a couple months. We had to work from home, the schools were closed, just like the stores, the restaurants, and the borders. Luckily we were allowed to exercise outside and go to the beach, of course with the necessary measures. To go to the empty beaches, walk, swim and get away from home, if only for an hour. It was what made the lockdown somewhat bearable. Another thing my family and I used to love during the lockdown was hiking. Before the lockdown, when I was busy going to school and having a social life, I was not a big fan of hiking, even though I only live five minutes away from the national park, which is called Arikok. We hiked the most beautiful trails, often climbed the highest mountain on the island, which is actually just a hill, and enjoyed the nature, the fresh air, the sound of the birds chirping, and the happy view.

Windsurfing with a group of girls, that is how I used to spend my Sundays,

as a small girl. Wanting to keep getting better and better until one day when we stopped playing in the water and started to compete against each other in slalom races. I started to miss the days when we were just twelve year old girls, looking for starfish while we had blue, pink or yellow colored sunscreen on our faces. I stopped windsurfing for a while, until my best friend convinced me to get back in the water together, last year during the lockdown. Flying over the water, with the most perfect view of the coast, and sometimes when we were lucky we spotted turtle's, it is the most wonderful feeling.

I feel lucky to grow up in an island like Aruba. It is one of the luckiest places to be during a lockdown. I would recommend everyone to get to know Aruba this way, while enjoying the elements Aruba has to offer and try to fall in love with my home. ☐





# Trump returns to a business empire ravaged by pandemic

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Donald Trump is returning to a family business ravaged by pandemic shutdowns and restrictions, with revenue plunging more than 40% at his Doral golf property, his Washington hotel and both his Scottish resorts over the past year.

Trump's 2020 financial disclosure released as he left office this week was just the latest bad news for his financial empire after banks, real estate brokerages and golf organizations announced they were cutting ties with his company following the storming of the Capitol this month by his political supporters.

The disclosure showed sizable debt facing the company of more than \$300 million, much of it coming due in the next four years, and a major bright spot: Revenue at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida, his new post-presidency home, rose by a few million dollars.

Eric Trump, who with Donald Trump Jr. has run the Trump Organization the past four years, told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday that the disclosure doesn't tell the whole story, calling the debt "negligible" and the outlook for the company bright, especially at its golf resorts and courses.



In this Jan. 15, 2021 file photo, extra security barricades are outside the Trump Hotel in Washington. Associated Press

"The golf business has never been stronger. We took in hundreds and hundreds of new members," he said, adding that profits were in the "tens of millions."

Hinting at possible new ventures in the post-presidency era, Eric Trump raised the prospect of a flurry of new licensing deals in which the Trump name is put on a product or building for a fee, a business that has generated tens of millions for the company in the past.

"The opportunities are endless," he said, declining to give details.

The disclosure report filed each year with federal ethics officials shows only revenue figures, not profits, but the hit to Trump's business appeared widespread.

The National Doral Golf Club outside of Miami, his biggest money maker among the family's golf properties, took in \$44.2 million in revenue, a drop of \$33 million from 2019. The Trump International Hotel in Washington, once buzzing with lobbyists and diplomats before operations were cut back last year, generated just \$15.1 million in revenue, down more

than 60% from the year before.

Trump's Turnberry club in Scotland took in less than \$10 million, down more than 60%. Revenue at the family's golf club in Aberdeen dropped by roughly the same proportion.

The Mar-a-Lago, the Palm Beach club where Trump arrived Wednesday, saw revenue rise 10% to \$24.2 million. Revenue at a golf club near that club and one in Charlotte, North Carolina, also rose, up about 5 percent to \$13 million each.

In total, Trump's vast hold-

ing of hotels, resorts, office buildings, licensing deals and other assets took in at least \$278 million for 2020 and the first few weeks of the new year, down more than a third from a minimum of about \$450 million in 2019.

The financial blow from former clients and business partners cutting ties to Trump is unclear, but it could be sizable. The PGA of America canceled a championship tournament at Trump's Bedminster club in New Jersey, and several banks said they would no longer lend to the company, making it more difficult to roll over its debt with new loans.

In addition, New York City said it would be canceling various contracts with the company, including those running skating rinks and a golf club in the Bronx. Revenue at that course, the Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point, fell 20% last year to \$6.4 million.

Eric Trump dismissed the backlash, saying parts of the business that get less attention, such as its commercial buildings, are thriving.

"I've signed 125,000 square feet of office space in the fourth quarter alone," he said, referring to new leases. "We hit it out of the park." □

## U.S. home construction jumps 5.8% in December to 1.67 million

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. home construction jumped 5.8% in December to 1.67 million units, a 14-year high that topped the strongest annual showing from the country's builders in 15 years.

The better-than-expected December gain followed an increase of 9.8% in November when housing starts climbed to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.58 million units, the Commerce Department reported Thursday. The December pace was the strongest since the building rate reached 1.72 million units in September 2006.

For the year, construction began on 1.45 million units, up 4.8% from 2019 and the best pace since construction starts totaled 1.8 million units in 2006. That period included a massive U.S. housing boom that eventually burst, kicking off the catastrophic 2007-2009 recession.

Housing has been one of the star performers this year even as the overall economy has been wracked by the spread of the coronavirus. Record-low mortgage rates and the migration of Americans to larger homes better suited for home offices during the pandemic has fueled demand.

"We expect the pace of housing starts to moderate in 2021 as homebuilders confront constraints including high lumber prices and shortages of lots and labor," said Nancy Vanden Houten, lead U.S. economist at Oxford Economics. Even with these constraints, Vanden Houten believes home construction should remain at healthy levels, supported by low mortgage rates and strong demand when COVID-19 cases begin to decline.

For December, construction of single-family homes increased by 7.8% to 1.23 million units. Construction of apartments with five or more units fell by 2% to a



This Sept. 24, 2020 file photo shows a new home under construction in Houston. Associated Press

rate of 437,000. The Northeast was the only region in the country that fell, suffering a de-

cline of 7.2%. Construction rose 13.6% in the Midwest, 11.2% in the West and 1.3% in the South. □



# Behind those dancing robots, scientists had to bust a move

By **RODRIQUE NGOWI**  
**WALTHAM, Mass. (AP)** —

The man who designed some of the world's most advanced dynamic robots was on a daunting mission: programming his creations to dance to the beat with a mix of fluid, explosive and expressive motions that are almost human.

The results? Almost a year and half of choreography, simulation, programming and upgrades that were capped by two days of filming to produce a video running at less than 3 minutes. The clip, showing robots dancing to the 1962 hit "Do You Love Me?" by The Contours, was an instant hit on social media, attracting more than 23 million views during the first week.

It shows two of Boston Dynamics' humanoid Atlas research robots doing the twist, the mashed potato and other classic moves, joined by Spot, a dog-like robot, and Handle, a wheeled robot designed for lifting and moving boxes in a warehouse or truck.

Boston Dynamics founder and chairperson Marc Raibert says what the robot maker learned was far more valuable.

"It turned out that we needed to upgrade the robot



**Marc Raibert, founder and chair of Boston Dynamics stands beside one of the company's Atlas robots during an interview and demonstration, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021, at their facilities in Waltham, Mass.**

in the middle of development in order for it to be strong enough and to have enough energy to do the whole performance without stopping. So that was a real benefit to the design," Raibert says.

The difficult challenge of teaching robots to dance also pushed Boston Dynamics engineers to develop better motion-programming tools that let

robots reconcile balance, bouncing and doing a performance simultaneously.

"So we went from having very crude tools for doing that to having very effective rapid-generation tools so that by the time we were done, we could generate new dance steps very quickly and integrate them into the performance," Raibert says.

The quality of the robots'

dancing was so good that some viewers online said they couldn't believe their eyes. Some applauded the robots' moves and the technology powering them. Others appeared to be freaked out by some of their expressive routines.

Others added that what they were seeing was probably computer-generated imagery, or CGI.

Not so, Raibert says.

What was on display was a results of long, hard work fueled by a determination to program the robot to dance to the beat, he says.

"We didn't want a robot doing robotlike dancing. We wanted it to do human dancing and, you know, when a human dances, the music has a beat and their whole body moves to it — their hands, their body, their head," he says. "And we tried to get all of those things involved and coordinated so that it, you know, it was ... it looked like the robot was having fun and really moved with the music. And I think that had a lot to do with the result of the production."

Teaching robots to dance with fluid and expressive motions was a new challenge for a company that spent years building robots that have functional abilities like walking, navigating in rough terrain, pick things up with their hands and use attached advanced sensors to monitor and sense many things, Raibert says.

"You know, our job is to try and stretch the boundaries of what robots can do, both in terms of the outer research boundary, but also in terms of practical applications. □

**Associated Press**

# Facebook's oversight board to rule on Trump ban



**President Donald Trump speaks to crowd before boarding Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021.**

**Associated Press**

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**  
**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)** —

Facebook is passing the buck for its indefinite suspension of former president Donald Trump to a quasi-

independent oversight board, setting up a major test of the recently established panel.

The social media giant said Thursday that it believes it

made the right decision to suspend Trump after he incited his supporters to storm the U.S. Capitol in a deadly assault on Jan. 6. But it said it's referring the matter to the oversight board for what it called an "independent judgment" on upholding the decision.

Facebook's panel is intended to rule on thorny content issues, such as when posts constitute hate speech — or if the decision to ban a world leader was the right one. It is empowered to make binding rulings — that is, ones that can't be overturned by CEO Mark Zuckerberg — on whether posts or ads violate the company's rules. Any other findings will be considered "guidance" by Facebook. The board does

not set Facebook policies or decide if the company is doing enough to enforce them in the first place.

Its 20 members, which will eventually grow to 40, include a former prime minister of Denmark, the former editor-in-chief of the Guardian newspaper, along with legal scholars, human rights experts and journalists such as Tawakkol Karman, a Nobel Laureate and journalist from Yemen, and Julie Owono, a digital rights advocate.

The first four board members were directly chosen by Facebook. Those four then worked with Facebook to select additional members. Facebook also pays the board members' salaries.

Twitter, by contrast, perma-

nently banned Trump from its platform. CEO Jack Dorsey defended his company's Trump ban in a philosophical Twitter thread last week, saying that resulting risk to public safety created an "extraordinary and untenable circumstance" for the company.

But he acknowledged that shows of strength like the Trump ban could set dangerous precedents, even calling them a sign of "failure." He suggested that Twitter needs to find ways to avoid coming to have to make such decisions in the first place and lamented the fact that they highlight the extraordinary power that Twitter and other Big Tech companies can wield without accountability or recourse. □



# Amazon offers assist with US COVID-19 vaccine distribution

SEATTLE (AP) — Amazon is offering its colossal operations network and advanced technologies to assist President Joe Biden in his vow to get 100 million COVID-19 vaccinations to Americans in his first 100 days in office. "We are prepared to leverage our operations, information technology, and communications capabilities and expertise to assist your administration's vaccination efforts," wrote the CEO of Amazon's Worldwide Consumer division, Dave Clark, in a letter to Biden. "Our scale allows us to make a meaningful im-

pact immediately in the fight against COVID-19, and we stand ready to assist you in this effort." Amazon said that it has already arranged a licensed third-party occupational health care provider to give vaccines on-site at its facilities for its employees when they become available. Amazon has more than 800,000 employees in the United States, Clark wrote, most of whom essential workers who cannot work from home and should be vaccinated as soon as possible. Biden will sign 10 pandem-



In this Oct. 1, 2020 file photo, an Amazon logo appears on an Amazon delivery van in Boston.

Associated Press

ic-related executive orders on Thursday, his second day in office, but the administration says efforts to supercharge the rollout of vaccines have been hampered by lack of cooperation from the Trump administration during the transition. They say they

don't have a complete understanding of the previous administration's actions on vaccine distribution.

## Classifieds

**For Sale: Casa del Mar**  
Presidential unit at Casa Del Mar for week 1, room 1317. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, full kitchen, dining room, pool and fitness center. Asking \$16,000. Call USA, 845-239-2918 or email garyhudak684@comcast.net

**For Sale: Casa Del Mar**  
Presidential unit at Casa Del Mar for week 2, room 1511. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, full kitchen, dining room, pool and fitness center. Asking \$16,000. Call USA, 845-239-2918 or email garyhudak684@comcast.net.

**For Sale: Barcelo**  
All Inclusive. Prime week, studio deluxe unit. Sleeps 2. Cost of food and liquor package extra. Cost of ownership \$12,000. Call USA 845-239-2918 or email garyhudak684@comcast.net.

**Casa del Mar 2BR/2B**  
week 1/1408 (15k);  
week 2/1113 (16k);  
week 5/1315 (18k);  
week 5&6/1521 (20k/Wk.);  
week 7&8/1408 (18k/Wk.);  
week 8/1113; 8/1409 (17k/wk.);  
week 9/1218 (15k);  
week 10/1207 (15k);  
weeks 11-15 also available!  
CDMOwner@gmail.com  
U.S. (860)992-3890

**Conceptis Sudoku** By Dave Green

5			7			3		9
						8		
4	1		2		8			
		5				2		3
8		6				1		
			3		7		8	1
		9						
7		2			4			5

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 1/22

©2021 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

ARUBA TODAY BONDIA

### How to reach us!

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800  
E: news@arubatoday.com  
W: www.arubatoday.com  
@arubatoday

## HEALTH

### DOCTOR ON DUTY

**Oranjestad**  
Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

**San Nicolas**  
Imsan 24 hours  
Tel. 524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:  
del Pueblo Tel. 582 1253  
San Nicolas:  
San Lucas Tel. 584 5119

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
+297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

Police 100  
Oranjestad 527 3140  
Noord 527 3200  
Sta. Cruz 527 2900  
San Nicolas 584 5000  
Police Tipline 11141  
Ambulancia 911  
Fire Dept. 115  
Red Cross 582 2219

### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas 587 5900  
Prof. Taxi 588 0035  
Taxi D.T.S. 587 2300  
Taxi Serv. Aruba 583 3232  
A1 Taxi Serv. 280 2828

### TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport 524 2424  
American Airlines 582 2700  
Avianca 588 0059  
Jet Blue 588 2244  
Surinam 582 7896

### AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired  
Tel. 582 5051  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952  
Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989  
Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400  
Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888  
Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433  
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

### General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on Facebook

facebook.com/arubatoday/



# Natiruts, Marley, Aparicio sing for unity of the Americas

**NEW YORK (AP)** — With a trilingual song that calls for the people of the Americas to unite in a more fair and loving world, Brazilian reggae band Natiruts, Jamaican musician Ziggy Marley and Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio hope to make the whole continent vibrate.

"América Vibra" was released Wednesday — the day of President Joe Biden's inauguration — as a nod to a new beginning.

"We don't want walls. We are bridges," recites the Oscar-nominated actress in Spanish before Marley and Natiruts vocalist Alexandre Carlo sing about social justice and environmental protection in English and Portuguese, respectively.

"América Vibra" includes a musical video directed by Rick Brombal which combines images of the Brazilian Senate, the White House and other iconic places covered or surrounded by vegetation in an allusion to the power of nature over that of men. The single's cover image, which shows the faces of the three artists painted in colorful geometric figures, was developed by Brazilian muralist Carlos Eduardo Fernandes Léo,



This image released by Sony Music Brazil shows cover art for the single for "America Vibra," a trilingual song featuring Ziggy Marley and the Academy-Award nominated actress Yalitza Aparicio.

Associated Press

better known as Kobra. "The idea (for the song) arose in 2019, before the pandemic," said Carlo in a recent interview with The Associated Press from his home-studio in Brazil's capital, Brasilia. Natiruts, a reggae band with a career of over 25 years, planned to include it in a DVD recorded at the Luna Park in Buenos Aires, Argentina,

after playing in Mexico, Paraguay, Chile and Puerto Rico, but the coronavirus pandemic disrupted the plan, he explained. Months later they decided to continue on. "The purpose was the same, the unity of the Americas," Carlo said. And with this in mind they invited an English-speaking colleague based in the

United States to give more "legitimacy to the song" — the son of legendary Bob Marley, like his father a musician and an activist.

For the Spanish part of the song, they wanted a woman, and Aparicio, an actress and activist of Mixtec origin, provided even greater representation.

"The identity with the Native Indians, the identity with her country, with the struggles, with the people," Carlo said. "Yalitza made this song grow with her personality, with her representation of Latin America."

For the "Roma" star, her spoken music debut — she says she cannot sing — was about "experimenting another phase and discovering what would happen."

"What drew me to this project was the message that it carries... the intention of sharing with the world something as important as unity, and what better way than doing it through a trilingual song, through music," Aparicio said in a Zoom interview from Mexico City. "Besides, it's a collaboration with two big reggae stars. No one could have said no!" she added with laugh. Her part includes the Spanish verses: "We don't want

hunger, we are live. We don't want guns, we are peace. We don't want hatred, we are love."

In a press release, Marley said that collaborating with Natiruts and Aparicio was "a great pleasure."

"My lyrics is talking about realizing what's going on with the environment and wanting to see some justice in the world," he said. "We have to take care of the planet, take care of each other and just build a better world together."

The decision to release "América vibra" the same day as Biden's inauguration had to do with the hope for change.

"It's the victory of dialogue, the victory of calmness, the victory of unity over other leaders that emerged in the world that have a way of communication that is more violent, more aggressive, more denying of science, for example; intransigent," Carlo said.

"I know that we can expect a lot from the incoming administration, but we can do more than sit and wait, we need to act," added Aparicio. "Everyone can do a bit from where they stand if we want to see a real change." □

# Sales of U.S. Constitution topped 1 million during Trump years



This photo made available by the U.S. National Archives shows a portion of the first page of the United States Constitution.

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — At the National Constitution Center, in Philadelphia, they like to joke that what's bad for the country is often good for the organization. "Web traffic is through the roof," says the nonprofit's

CEO and president, Jeffrey Rosen. "We had more than 400,000 visitors to our site in the days following Jan. 6," when supporters of President Donald Trump rampaged in the U.S. Capitol. "Our previous record was

around 160,000." From his extraordinary political rise in 2015-16 through the four years of his presidency, including his unprecedented challenges to his re-election loss to Joe Biden, Trump's tenure became a kind of ongoing seminar about how the government works and how a democracy might fail. Questions once limited to Constitutional scholars — how many Cabinet members are needed to invoke the 25th Amendment and remove the president from power, whether a state legislature has the power to overturn the votes of presidential balloting — became part of everyday conversation.

Along with dystopian novels and White House tell-alls, the U.S. Constitution

has been a best-seller during the Trump years.

According to NPD BookScan, which tracks around 85 percent of the print market, more than 1 million copies of the Constitution in various editions have sold since Trump took office, compared to around 600,000 during the second term of President Barack Obama. The spike began in 2016 when Trump became the Republican candidate for president: Sales more than doubled from the year before, from 114,000 copies to 275,000, and were nearly four times higher than in Obama's first year in office, 2009.

A chart shared by BookScan with The Associated Press shows several moments in the Trump presidency that coincided with

increased sales of the Constitution: when he formally accepted the Republican nomination, in July 2016; his inauguration in January 2017; the hearings for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh in September 2018; and the formal launch by the House of Representatives, in Sept. 2019, of an impeachment inquiry into Trump's alleged efforts to pressure Ukraine's president into investigating Biden. □

5	6	8	7	4	1	3	2	9
2	9	7	6	5	3	8	1	4
4	1	3	2	9	8	7	5	6
9	7	5	1	8	6	2	4	3
3	2	1	4	7	9	5	6	8
8	4	6	5	3	2	1	9	7
6	5	4	3	2	7	9	8	1
1	3	9	8	6	5	4	7	2
7	8	2	9	1	4	6	3	5



# Thomas to go on training program after anti-gay slur

By **STEVE DOUGLAS**  
AP Sports Writer

Justin Thomas intends to go through an individual training program to "become a better person" after he was picked up uttering a homophobic slur under his breath when he missed a putt at a tournament in Hawaii this month.

Clothing brand Ralph Lauren ended its long-time sponsorship with Thomas following the incident two weeks ago, which the No. 3-ranked American golfer described as "humiliating and embarrassing and it's not me."

Thomas has spoken to his other sponsors — Titleist, FootJoy and global bank Citi are among those listed on his official website — and hopes they will stand by him as he looks to educate himself and restore his reputation.

"It's not a word I use," Thomas said Wednesday, referring to the slur he blurted out when missing a 5-foot

par putt on the fourth hole of Sentry Tournament of Champions, "but for some reason it was in there and that's what I'm trying to figure out — why it was in there.

"And like I said, it's going to be part of this process and training program, whatever I need to do, not only to prove to myself but to prove to my sponsors and prove to the people who don't know who I am that that is indeed not the person I am."

Ralph Lauren, which has sponsored Thomas since he turned pro, said it was "disheartened" by his language and made its decision to end its association with the player because of the responsibility it has to its stakeholders.

Speaking from the Abu Dhabi Championship, where he will be playing this week in a rare appearance on the European Tour, Thomas said he was upset but respected Ralph



Justin Thomas waits to hit from the first tee during the final round of the Tournament of Champions golf event, Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021, at Kapalua Plantation Course in Kapalua, Hawaii.

Associated Press

Lauren's decision.

"I spoke with them, along with all my sponsors, and although I apologized, just like it was then it's an opportunity for me to grow and I felt like it was something we could have done together and gone through that process," he said. "They just felt like they needed to move on so that's exactly what I'm doing as well.

"I wasn't disappointed," Thomas added, "because I put them in a terrible position. I was just more upset. I had a great relationship with a lot of people there and like I said we had the opportunity to do it all together."

Pushed on the training program he intends to follow, Thomas said he would be keeping it "at a personal

level."

"Obviously people are going to be a part of that process," he said. "But what I'm doing I'd like to keep internally and just go through the appropriate steps to get where I need to be and want to be, so people understand that's not the person I am, the character I like to portray."

The Abu Dhabi Championship starts Thursday and is Thomas' first event since the incident in Kapalua. He will be playing in the tournament for the first time in what will be only his fourth start in a regular European Tour event.

Rory McIlroy will play in the same group as Thomas for the first two rounds at Abu Dhabi Golf Club, and does not expect the issue to affect the American's game.

"He maybe won't be as ignorant to offend people — obviously what he said was offensive to a large portion of the population," McIlroy said. □

## NHL Capsules

# Theodore scores 2 goals, Golden Knights top Coyotes 5-2

By **The Associated Press**

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Shea Theodore scored two goals, Marc-Andre Fleury made 21 saves and the Vegas Golden Knights defeated the Arizona Coyotes 5-2 on Wednesday night.

It marks the first time the Golden Knights have started 4-0-0 in their four-year existence. They're the first team in the NHL to reach four wins this season.

Alex Tuch added a goal and two assists, Mark Stone had a goal and an assist, and Alex Pietrangolo scored his first goal with Vegas.

Nick Schmaltz and Phil Kessel scored for the Coyotes (1-2-1). Darcy Kuemper made 24 saves.

### **SHARKS 2, BLUES 1, SO**

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Tomas Hertl scored the only goal in a four-round shootout to lift San Jose over St. Louis.

Marcus Sorensen scored the tying goal late in the second period and Martin Jones made 22 saves for

the Sharks, who snapped a six-game losing streak to St. Louis that started in the 2019 playoffs.

Jones denied all four Blues shooters in the tiebreaker. Brayden Schenn scored in his second consecutive game and Jordan Binnington made 37 saves for the Blues.

San Jose appeared to get the game-winner with 11 seconds left in overtime, but the officials quickly waved it off for goaltender interference on Ryan Donato. After a replay review, the call was upheld.

### **WILD 3, DUCKS 2**

**ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)** — Joel Eriksson Ek had a goal and an assist, including the game-winning score early in the third period, and Minnesota capped a successful season-opening road trip with a win over Anaheim.

Ryan Hartman and Nick Bonino also scored for the Wild, who have won three of their first four games.

Kaapo Kahkonen made 22 saves.

Nicolas Deslauriers and Cam Fowler scored for the Ducks, and Ryan Miller stopped 29 shots.

### **OILERS 3, MAPLE LEAFS 1**

**TORONTO (AP)** — Leon Draisaitl broke a tie on a power play midway through the third period in Edmonton's victory over Toronto.

Draisaitl, the reigning NHL MVP and Art Ross Trophy winner, ended the Oilers' 0-for-12 power-play drought.

Kailer Yamamoto was credited with the opening goal for Edmonton after the Maple Leafs fumbled the puck into their own net in the first. Mikko Koskinen made 25 saves, and Josh Archibald scored into an empty net with 1:06 left.

Auston Matthews scored for Toronto, and Frederik Andersen made 19 saves.

### **CANUCKS 6, CANADIENS 5, SO**

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)** — Bo Horvat



Vegas Golden Knights defenseman Shea Theodore (27) celebrates after scoring against the Arizona Coyotes during the first period of an NHL hockey game Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

scored the shootout winner and Vancouver overcame Tyler Toffoli's hat trick to beat Montreal.

Horvat, the Vancouver captain, put a shot between the legs of goalie Carey Price to make the Canucks winners in their home opener.

Horvat and Brock Boeser each finished with two goals and an assist for Vancouver in regulation. Tyler

Motte also scored and J.T. Miller had three assists.

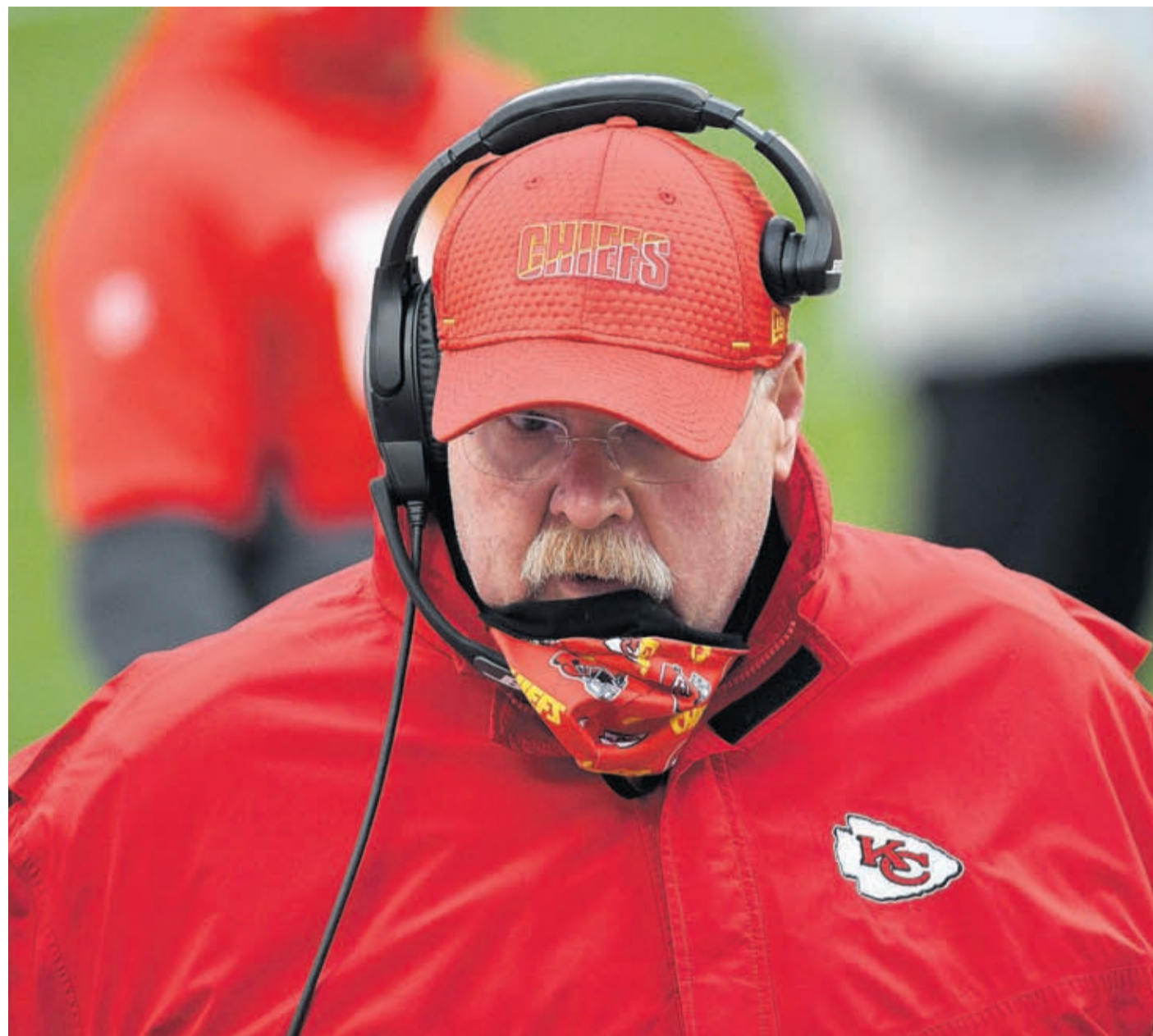
Braden Holtby stopped 31 shots in regulation and overtime.

Price made 23 saves for the Canadiens, unbeaten in regulation this season. Jesper Kotkaniemi had a goal and an assist, and Brendan Gallagher scored his first of the season.

Boeser forced overtime 16:51 into the third period. □



# EXPLAINER: A look at the data behind NFL decision making



Kansas City Chiefs head coach Andy Reid talks with players on the sideline during the first half of an NFL divisional round football game against the Cleveland Browns, Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021, in Kansas City.

Associated Press

By **JOSH DUBOW**  
AP Pro Football Writer

Fourth downs in the NFL used to be reserved for kicks, except in the most dire of circumstances.

But with teams scoring at a record pace and becoming more analytics friendly each year, teams are going for it on fourth down these days in scenarios that would have been unfathomable just a decade ago.

Whether it was Kansas City's decision to go for it on fourth-and-1 in its own territory to seal a win last week against Cleveland, or Indianapolis' failed fourth-and-goal try from the 4 late in the first half the previous week, those decisions have taken center stage this postseason.

"You can make a very good decision and have a bad result and you can make a bad decision and have a good result," said Frank Frigo, the co-founder of EdjSports, a data company that has created its own customizable model for decision making in the NFL. "That's OK. That's life. But you have to operate on the best available information.

In the long haul, you will do much better making sound analytically based choices."

The data behind those decisions is more readily available than ever to fans with places like EdjSports and ESPN tweeting out the numbers that show which decisions are best and worst during games each week.

Here's a deeper look into the in-game decisions coaches make and what the numbers say about them.

## HOW FIGURE OUT

There are several models for decision making and they typically agree on most calls, although there are slight differences. EdjSports models the win probability for teams based on the decisions they make based on historical play-by-play data and adjusts it for variables like the strength and weaknesses of both teams from Football Outsiders, injuries and other factors. Calls that increase win probability are good and those that decrease it are bad.

## WHY IS IT BENEFICIAL TO GO FOR IT

The models are more aggressive than almost any coach, advocating going for it on almost fourth-and-1 no matter the field position, favoring more fourth-down tries over field goals in the red zone and even advocating for "riskier" calls like saying the Browns should have gone for it last week on fourth-and-9 from their 32 with more than four minutes left when trailing Kansas City by five. That decision cost Cleveland 5 percentage points in EdjSports' win probability. The Browns punted and never got the ball back.

"You're voluntarily turning the ball over," Frigo said. "You're essentially trading it for field position. The model is very good at determining what the field position is worth compared to giving the ball up."

## WHAT WAS THE BEST DECISION OF POSTSEASON

The best fourth-down call, according to EdjSports, came from Browns coach Kevin Stefanski, who went for it on fourth-and-1 from his own 29 with Cleveland trailing by five with about six minutes remaining.

The call increased Cleveland's win probability by 7.3 percentage points. Baker Mayfield converted it with a sneak, but Stefanski squandered it when he punted on fourth-and-9 on the next series of downs. Chiefs coach Andy Reid's call to go for it on fourth-and-1 on the next possession to seal the win was the second-best call of the postseason, increasing Kansas City's win probability by 6.5 percentage points.

## WHAT WAS THE WORST DECISION OF POSTSEASON

There's little surprise on this one. The analytics didn't like Tennessee coach Mike Vrabel's call to punt on fourth-and-2 from the Baltimore 40 in the wild-card round when trailing 17-13 with about 10 minutes left. That decision cost the Titans 13.7 percentage points in win probability. The Ravens took the punt and drove for a field goal, and Ryan Tannehill threw an interception on the next possession to seal the game.

## WHEN SHOULD YOU GO FOR 2

While fourth-down decisions have more impact, the decision on whether to go for a 2-point conversion after a touchdown can be difficult. Some choices are easy, like when a team scores a TD late in regulation and needs a 2-point conversion to tie the game or increase a lead from one to three points for example.

Others are more complicated with one that causes controversy being what to do when a team trailing by 14 points scores a TD. Conventional wisdom has always been to kick the extra point to make it a seven-point game. But the analytics point to going for 2, which some teams now do in that situation, because making it gives a chance to win in regulation with a kick and missing leaves open the option to tie with a 2-point conversion. The difference is only a percentage point or two in win probability, according to Frigo.

"The 2-point conversion decisions are interesting and certainly matter," Frigo said. "But the more complicated ones tend to not have a huge amount of equity in the balance."

## HOW DO THE FOUR CHAMPIONSHIP GAME COACHES FARE

Three of the four coaches this weekend rank in the top 10 in EdjSports' Critical Call Index, which grades the decision making during the season. Green Bay's Matt LaFleur is third, followed by Reid (sixth), Buffalo's Sean McDermott (eighth) and Tampa Bay's Bruce Arians (30th). □